

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

Items of interest to agriculturists gleaned from divers sources and dealing with many subjects connected with farm and field

Mississippi Soil Equal to Best.

For nearly two generations it was thought, and with plausible reason, that this section of Mississippi and the adjoining parishes of Louisiana are more suitable for cotton than for anything else; the staple could be raised cheaper and yield a larger margin of profit than elsewhere; in course of time cotton became the only article considered as a paying crop, the only source of wealth and the only basis of credit. The gloom that overcast the planters and their tenants when the boll weevil appeared and showed that, though cotton can be raised, it is dangerous to depend on it as the only crop, is well known and has not been dispelled yet.

Sheer stress of circumstances forced the planters to experiment with their agricultural products for the purpose of ascertaining whether anything else could be raised at a profit; whether articles of food could be grown to the same advantage here as in the North and West. The reply to the inquiry so far has been most satisfactory; it has been demonstrated that Mississippi can raise as many bushels of wheat to the acre as the wheat belt; as many bushels of corn and oats as the supposed home of these grains; that cattle and hogs can be raised cheaper than the section that theretofore furnished the meat of the country; can produce them, and, in spite of the statements of rice growers in Southwestern Louisiana. It is now certain that the low lands of the great river and its tributaries will produce a higher grade of rice and as satisfactory yield per acre as the best sections of Louisiana or Texas.

Mississippi lands, now that it is demonstrated that they can produce all crops that are staple in the North as well as those peculiar to them on account of soil and climate, are beginning to attract attention among investors and settlers, and the State as long well known as the best cotton State, has begun to excite curiosity, in the minds of the people in other sections where land is high, as one where the most diversified farming can be carried on.

The curiosity will soon materialize into something more tangible, if a persistent advertising campaign is carried on, such as has been undertaken by the Southern Land Development Association and by other local commercial organizations of the resources and possibilities of Mississippi will stem the tide of population toward the bleak region of Western Canada, whose only inducement is cheap land, whereas the climate of the South practically doubles the products of the soil if intelligently managed.

What is needed locally to still further strengthen the movement of population toward Mississippi is a spirit of hopefulness and cheerfulness and faith in our own resources.

Get a Piece of Land.

From a careful reading of the matter contained in the Bulletin for this month, as well as several issues back, something of an idea can be formed of what Mississippi soil is capable of producing and its real worth when properly handled. The experience of a number of Northern people who bought land and moved here is given, together with their estimate of what the land is really worth per acre from the standpoint of an investment.

It will be plainly seen that they place upon our lands a value much higher than that given by our own people. That with a system of diversification and production of crops and raising of live stock, our lands are more valuable than are those of Indiana and Illinois from which States the majority of them came. Lands in the States named run as high as \$200.00 per acre, even more. Then much of our land is really worth this figure and more. The people in those States are learning this and buying our lands at the low prices asked. The price will not remain low for any great length of time. It is bound to go up.

Then, the proposition is, for Mississippi people to acquire some of this land before it passes into other hands and the price goes where it rightfully

belongs. There is a desire on the part of almost every young or middle-aged man to own his piece of dirt and the slogan of "back to the farm" is heard more than ever before. There is a reason for it and a good one too. Too many people have gone to towns and cities. The increase in population is largely in the centers and not on the farm. Farm products are increasing in value at a rapid rate and will continue to do so.

Now is the time to secure a piece of land and begin its improvement. The farmer of the future will be a prosperous, intelligent and happy man. Mississippi will become one of the richest States in the Union and the principal richness will be in the soil. It is an agricultural State and will continue so. Prepare for what is bound to come by buying some land and giving it intelligent attention. Nothing offers a better investment—Mississippi Bulletin.

Raising Live Stock.

The live stockmen in Mississippi are unable to supply the demand for cattle and hogs for breeding purposes according to Hon. J. H. Aldrich of Michigan City, a member of the Mississippi live stock sanitary board, and one of the foremost stockmen in the State.

"Dealers in cattle and hogs for breeding purposes have sold their herds down to a stand," says Mr. Aldrich, "and are still being deluged with orders. It is a striking demonstration of the fact that the farmers of Mississippi are going into the live stock industry, in earnest, and will devote more attention to this branch of farming, and less to cotton growing, than ever before in the history of the State.

"At my own place I have almost sold out my Angus herd, and prospective buyers are clamoring for the calves that are not yet weaned. Other stockmen are meeting with similar experience. The farmers are buying the best grades of cattle and hogs obtainable, and it is well-nigh impossible to estimate the amount of money that has been thus invested during the past few months, but it will total up in the millions.

"The farmers are also awakening to a realization of the importance of the cattle tick eradication work, our work will be extended to a large number of new counties during the coming year, and we are securing active co-operation and assistance from the farmers."

Good Roads and Population.

According to recent census figures, the counties in Missouri which show a gain in population during the past ten years are the ones which have good roads. The Kansas City Star cites the cases of nine counties where the old-time roads are the rule, the population shows a decrease. The same results show in Texas, declares the Fort Worth papers. There is the best system of public roads in Texas, and Fort Worth shows the greatest percentage of gain in population of any city in Texas.

There is no waste or extravagance in road-building. It on the contrary, brings quick and decisive returns upon every outlay of money in mileage of improved roads exceeds 100 miles. In all of these counties the aggregate increase of population was 39,667. The counties in which St. Louis and Kansas City are located are included, but only the country districts are taken note of. In four other counties where systematic efforts have been made to improve the roads the increase in population aggregated 19,166. In all the other counties of the State which is intelligently expended. Mississippi may profit from a study of result in Missouri and Texas, as in every other State where road-building has been developed.

The Way to Beat the Boll Weevil.

Mr. W. A. Ober of Natchez, has returned from a business trip to Rayville, La., a section where a good crop of cotton was raised in spite of the Mexican cotton boll weevil. While over there he made inquiries as to how the farmers managed to secure such good crops and was informed that they

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planted an acre early in April for the weevil and a month later they went in for their full acreage.

In explanation of this plan he was told that the boll weevil attacked the acre planted early in April and the farmers picked them off and burned them so as to wipe them out.

Sometimes they would find a few weevil along the edge of the field planted a month later, but these were easily handled.

Farmers in other sections of Louisiana tried the same plan, and reported splendid results. They will plant the same way next year.

This is a good pointer for the farmers in Mississippi.

The big three just at present—the agricultural triumvirate—is the raising of plenty of corn, cattle and hogs. Diversification in other lines will follow when these are pursued, and then there will not be such a kick against the high cost of living in Mississippi.

Urge Planting of Peanuts.

Cotton seed oil mills in the Natchez district are urging farmers to plant peanuts. It is said that a fine quality of oil and variety of bi-products can be manufactured from peanuts with the same machinery used in cotton seed oil mills and that the crop is more profitable than cotton.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Account of the exhibition of Barum & Bailey's show at Greenville, Miss., Nov. 4th, we have arranged to hold the following trains:

Train No. 138 (Peavine) until 5:30 p. m.

Train No. 111 (Riverside) until 4:45 p. m.

Train No. 144 (Rolling Fork Accommodation) until 5:40 p. m.

Reduced rate tickets will be sold from points on Y. & M. V. Ry. within a radius of fifty miles of Greenville, account above show.

G. A. HOPKINS,

Ticket Agent, Y. & M. V. Ry.

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It is said that there are certain springs in Europe that give relief and cure to Eczema and other skin diseases. If you knew that by washing in these waters you could be relieved from that awful itch, wouldn't you make every effort to take a trip to Europe at once? Would you not be willing to spend your last cent to find the cure?

But you need not leave home for these distant springs. Relief is right here in your own town.

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